

PRESS RELEASE

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**NORTH DAKOTA CITED FOR BEST PRACTICE
WITH MILITARY VOTERS**

Bismarck, N.D. - The Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) has cited North Dakota as being a national leader in ensuring that North Dakota military personnel stationed throughout the world have easy and direct access to voting.

According to Secretary of State Al Jaeger, FVAP cited North Dakota's Absentee Voting Guidelines as a Best Practice. "This recognition was made possible through the cooperative effort of the North Dakota National Guard, the state's county auditors, the Election Division of the Secretary of State's office, and the FVAP," Jaeger said.

The guidelines establish a uniform absentee voting procedure that is accessible to military personnel in remote areas, including Iraq and Afghanistan. Military personnel can request an absentee ballot via e-mail. The ballot is then faxed to the service member who returns the completed ballot and voter's affidavit to his or her county election official via fax or mail service.

The Secretary of State's office was unaware of the FVAP recognition until it received an e-mail message from a North Dakota naval officer stationed in California, who serves his squadron as a voting assistance officer, who complimented the state on its program.

The instructions for military voters is on the Secretary of State's website at www.state.nd.us/sec/electvote/ <<http://www.state.nd.us/sec/electvote/>>.

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